

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

ACEC: Area of Critical Environmental Concern

adaptive use: A new use for a structure or landscape other than the historic use, normally entailing some modification of the structure or landscape.

affected environment: The existing biological, physical, cultural, social, and economic conditions of an area that are subjected to both direct and indirect changes, as a result of actions described within alternatives under consideration.

air quality: A measure of health and visibility-related characteristics of air, often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances.

allotment: An area of public land designated and leased by the BLM for grazing livestock.

alternatives: A reasonable range of options that can accomplish an agency's objectives.

animal unit month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

archeological resources: Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. Such resources are capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

area of critical environmental concern (ACEC): Places within the BLM public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, other natural systems or processes or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

B

backcountry camping: Camping at undeveloped locations in the preserve outside designated day use only areas.

biodiversity: Or biological diversity, includes genetic diversity within species, species diversity within a community, and diversity in a full range of biological communities. An area is considered biologically diverse when it includes rich and stable populations of native species that are naturally distributed across the landscape.

BIA: Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): An agency of the Department of the Interior that is responsible for managing public lands.

C

Caltrans: California Department of Transportation

CCC: Civilian Conservation Corps

CDCA: California Desert Conservation Area

CDF & G: California Department of Fish and Game

CDPA: California Desert Protection Act

California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (CDPA): The California Desert Protection Act established the Mojave National Preserve, added acreage to and redesignated Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments as national parks, and established 69 wilderness areas on BLM-managed public lands.

CNPS: California Native Plant Society

concessioner: A private commercial entity that conducts business under contract with the National Park Service that may provide food, lodging, retail, recreation, and other services to park visitors.

cooperative management (agreement): A negotiated agreement between two or more entities to achieve specific management objectives.

cooperative ecosystem studies units (CESUs): The National Park Service has entered into national cooperative agreement with several universities to operate cooperative ecosystem studies units (CESU) on campuses to promote research and educational activities in parks.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): The President's Council on Environmental Quality was established by the National Environmental Policy Act NEPA and is the agency responsible for the oversight and development of national environmental policy.

critical habitat: Habitat approved in the *Federal Register* as critical for a particular listed species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. (1) The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management or protection (2) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

cultural landscape: A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

cultural resource: An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contains significant information about a culture. Properties such as landscapes or districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, or cultural practices that are usually greater than 50 years of age and possess architectural, historic, scientific, or other technical value. By their nature, cultural resources are nonrenewable.

cumulative effects (impacts): Effects on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

D

DCP: Development Concept Plan

degradation (natural resources): Refers to negative impact(s) to natural resources or natural processes. The impact may be singular or cumulative; the extent may be local or ecosystemwide. The term degradation is used broadly and may refer to: reduction in habitat size, reduction in extent of plant populations, declining species vigor exhibited as reduced population numbers, reduced reproductive success, increased mortality rates, and/or decreased percent of available habitat utilized.

DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

desert tortoise wildlife management area (DWMA): A series of reserves recommended by the Recovery Plan that provide areas for population recovery and delisting of the desert tortoise.

development concept plan (DCP): The National Park Service uses a development concept plan to bridge the gap between a general management plan and the preliminary construction and design drawings for a specific geographic area within the NPS boundaries. This is accomplished by providing greater detailed direction on options for development at a particular geographic area.

DOD: Department of Defense

DWMA: Desert Wildlife Management Areas

E

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

environmental consequences: A section of an environmental impact statement that is the scientific and analytic basis for comparing alternatives. This discussion includes the environmental effects of the alternatives, any adverse effects that cannot be avoided, and short-term, long-term and cumulative effects.

environmental impact statement (EIS): A detailed statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when an agency proposes a major action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment.

endangered species: Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These species are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (amended) (ESA): The Endangered Species Act ensures that no federal action will jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species of plant or animal.

ephemeral range: Areas of the desert rangeland that do not consistently produce enough forage to sustain grazing cattle but may briefly produce unusual volumes of forage to accommodate cattle grazing.

ethnographic resources: A site, structure, object, landscape, or natural resource feature assigned legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it.

F

facilities: Refers to buildings, houses, campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor-use areas, operational areas, and associated supporting infrastructure such as roads, trails, and utilities.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976. Often referred to as the BLM “Organic Act,” which provides the majority of the BLM’s legislative authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement

floodplain: Land on either side of a stream or river that is submerged during floods. Typically discussed in terms of 50, 100, or 500 year events.

100-year floodplain: The land adjacent to a river corridor that would be covered by water during a 100-year flood event. A 100-year flood event has a 1% probability of occurring during any given year.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act

FWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

G

general management plan (GMP): The first tier plan for NPS units that provides overall broad management direction.

geographic information system (GIS): Specialized software and computers that convert map data and other resource information into digital files, allowing analysis of resource interactions and generation of computer drawn maps.

GPRA: Government Performance and Results Act

groundwater: All water found below the surface of the ground.

guzzler: A guzzler is a permanent self-filling water catchment. Most are similar to a cistern and are simple, low-maintenance devices that are essentially tanks filled by rain-collecting aprons (Giles 1971).

H

hazardous material: A substance or combination of substances that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may either: (1) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise man-aged.

hazardous waste: Hazardous materials that no longer have practical use, such as substances that have been discarded, spilled, or contaminated, or that are being stored temporarily prior to proper disposal.

herd management area: Areas of public land which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management for wild horses and burros.

historic district: A geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, landscapes, structures, or objects, united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical developments. A district may also be composed of individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.

historic site: The site of a significant event, prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or structure or landscape whether extant or vanished, where the site itself possesses historical, cultural, or archeological value apart from the value of any existing structure or landscape.

HMA: Herd Management Area

HML: Herd Management Level

HMP: Herd Management Plan

hydrology: A science dealing with the properties, distribution and circulation of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

I

Impacts: Effects, both beneficial and adverse, of an action on the human environment. Direct effects are those occurring at the same time and place as the action itself. Indirect effects occur later in time or are farther removed in distance from the action, yet are reasonably foreseeable.

Indian trust resources: Resources held in trust by the U.S. government for the benefit of Indian tribes.

Infrastructure: The various systems and facilities needed to support park operations and visitor services (e.g., sewer and water systems, electric systems, communication lines, roads and trails, and various support buildings).

Interpretation: Programs that support the mission of the National Park Service by assisting people in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the protection of the park's natural, cultural, and scenic resources and dynamic processes. Interpretive programs include walks and evening programs, guided tours, formal education programs for school groups, exhibits, audiovisual productions, and publications.

L

land protection plan (LPP): A plan that provides general guidance for parks on addressing issues related to nonfederal lands and interests contained within the boundaries of park units.

LPP: Land Protection Plan

locatable minerals: Any valuable mineral that is not salable or leasable including gold, silver, molybdenum, tungsten, and uranium.

M

Minimum Tool Analysis: An analysis of "tools" or methods that might be utilized for a particular understanding in wilderness, whose purpose is to find the least impacting tool to accomplish the task

Mining in the Parks Act: Public Law 94-429 that was passed in September 1976, giving the National Park Service authority to regulate mining on all federal claims inside park units.

mitigation: An activity designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or compensate the severity of, or eliminate impacts from the proposed project. A mitigation measure should be a solution to an identified environmental problem.

museum collection: Objects, works of art, historic documents, and natural history specimens collected according to a rational scheme and maintained so they can be preserved, studied, and interpreted for public benefit.

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): A law enacted on January 1, 1970 that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

National Historic Landmark: A district, site, building, structure, landscape, or object of national historical significance, designated by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA): This act required federal agencies to give consideration to historic properties determined significant (properties listed on or determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) prior to expending funding for, authorizing, or licensing a federal project or permit.

National Natural Landmark Register: A program which seeks to identify and encourage the preservation of areas that illustrate the ecological and geological character of the United States.

National Park Service (NPS): An agency in the Department of the Interior responsible for protection and preservation of 379 natural and cultural units throughout the United States.

National Register of Historic Places: The comprehensive list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, regional, state, and local significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture kept by the National Park Service under authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

natural resources: Features and values that include plants and animals, water, air, soils, topographic features, geologic features, paleontological resources, natural quiet, and clear night skies.

NECO: Northern and Eastern Colorado Planning Effort

NEMO: Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Effort

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act

no-action alternative: An alternative in an environmental impact statement that continues current management direction. A no action alternative is a benchmark against which action alternatives are compared.

nonnative species: Species of plants or animals that do not naturally occur in a particular area and often interfere with natural biological systems. Also known as alien, introduced, or exotic species.

Non-point pollution sources: Pollutants that enter the environment from general non-contained locations. Examples of non-point sources are roadways, parking lots, and landscaped areas. Pollutants from these locations can include petrochemicals, heavy metals, and fertilizers.

Nonwilderness: Areas that have not been legislatively designated as wilderness areas.

P

paleoenvironment: Ancient environment.

patented mining claim: These claims are mining properties obtained under the 1872 Mining Law, where the owners have met the federal requirements to obtain title to the surface and subsurface estates. Mining on patented claims is subject to NPS regulations at 36 CFR Part 9A, the same as on unpatented claims.

perennial range: Refers to portions of a grazing permit or allotment where grazing is primarily on perennial plants (shrubs, cacti, biennial herbs)

petroglyph: An ancient picture, design, or indentation carved, abraded, or pecked into a rock surface.

pictograph: An ancient figure or design painted onto a rock surface.

plan of operations: A plan submitted by an operator in compliance with 36 CFR Part 9, which outlines in detail proposed mining development activities for agency review and analysis.

prescribed fire: Fires that are intentionally ignited under controlled conditions to meet management goals for natural resources and processes, wildland fire protection, and cultural resource preservation.

preservation (cultural resource): The act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object. Work may include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally focuses on the ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work.

preservation (natural resource): The act or process of preventing, eliminating, or reducing human-caused impacts to natural resources and natural processes.

R

ranch developments: Structures that are installed to support ranching operations including: water tanks, windmills, pipelines, fences, cattleguards, corrals, etc.

record of decision (ROD): The public document following the preparation of a final environmental impact statement that reflects the agency's final decision, rationale behind the decision, and commitments to monitoring and mitigation.

rehabilitation (cultural resources): The act or process of making possible an efficient compatible use for a historic structure or landscape through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving the portions or features which convey the historical, cultural and architectural values.

rehabilitation (natural resources): All activities conducted to improve the quality or biologic function of an impacted natural resource. The term rehabilitation connotes a less extensive process than restoration. Site impacts may preclude a full restoration but project work is undertaken to enhance the extent or function of natural processes.

reserved water right: When the government reserves land for a preserve or other purposes, it also reserves, explicitly or by implication, enough unappropriated water at the time of the reservation as is

necessary to accomplish the purposes for which Congress or the President authorized the land to be reserved.

restoration (cultural): The act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of an existing historic structure, landscape, or object as it appeared at a particular period of time, by removing modern additions and replacing lost portions of historic fabric, paint, or other elements.

restoration (natural): Work conducted to remove impacts to natural resources and restore natural processes, and to return a site to natural conditions.

revegetation: Replacement or augmentation of native plants in an area largely or entirely denuded of vegetation.

riparian areas: Areas that are on or adjacent to rivers and streams; these areas are typically rich in biological diversity.

right-of-way (ROW): An authorization provided that specifies the legal right of use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a special purpose or purposes.

roads (backcountry): Unmaintained routes of travel that have been established by repeated motorized vehicle use or were constructed using equipment to provide access to a remote site. These roads are often in unpredictable condition and usually require a high clearance or four wheel drive vehicle.

roadside camping: Camping in close proximity to a vehicle in previously disturbed sites along open routes of travel outside wilderness.

RS-2477: A revised statute under the Mining Act of 1866 that provided for the establishment of rights-of-way across public lands. Although repealed by Congress in 1976 with enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, valid rights-of-way for roads constructed on public lands before 1976 were not subject to the repeal.

S

Section 7 Consultation: Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the habitat of a threatened or endangered plant or animal may be affected by a federally authorized action.

Soda Springs/Zzyzx: A desert oasis located approximately ten miles south of Baker, California that has a long history of human use and has water sources that provide habitat for the endangered Mohave tui chub

State School Lands: Land owned and managed by the State Lands Commission for the benefit of the state. Sections 16 and 36 of each township were deeded to the state upon statehood. Some of these have since been sold or traded.

surface water: Water that naturally flows or settles on top of natural landforms and vegetation, often as rivers, springs, seeps streams, lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water.

T

threatened species: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These species are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

U

USFS: U.S. Forest Service

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

unpatented mining claim:

V

visitor experience: The perceptions, feelings, and interaction a park visitor has in relationship with the environment.

W

Watershed: The region draining into a river, river system, or body of water.

Wetland: Areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support, under normal circumstances, vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971: An act passed in 1971 that provides for management of wild and free roaming horses and burros on public lands. The Act applies to public lands managed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

Wilderness: Areas protect by provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. These areas are characterized by a lack of human interference in natural processes; generally there would be no roads, structures, installations, or use of motorized equipment.

WMP: West Mojave Plan: BLM-led planning effort focusing on multiple species conservation.

Z

Zzyzx: A desert oasis located approximately ten miles south of Baker, California at Soda Springs named by Curtis Springer.